

## Report of Experiences

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My research stay at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, took place from June 1st, 2016 to August 31, 2016. I worked with Professor Seth Pettie on graph connectivity problems. My overall experience was very positive. I was able to meet with Prof. Pettie multiple times a week and could profit a lot from his experience and guidance. To work with a different expert in the field than my advisor at the University of Vienna provided me more perspective on the research field and on research practices, in particular also for choosing my upcoming post-doctoral position. Moreover, my research stay led to an invitation to a seminar with a group of top researchers in my field and important contacts for future collaborations and therefore has been a crucial component in starting to establishing myself in my research field.

I was well integrated into the research group. I was invited to the graduate student research seminar and gave a presentation there and also took part in the social events of the group. Furthermore, Prof. Pettie introduced me to two other professors in related fields and I had the chance to explain my research to them. The administrative process went smoothly, all needed information was given to me already on the day of arrival and I just had to follow the given instructions.

The University of Michigan is a large university of superb quality and offers a wide range of services, including its own health care and bus system. I was impressed by how well the university functions and by the dedication to quality among all its employees. Research-wise, I was only in touch with a small group, which despite its small size is internationally competitive. Other offers of the university I profited from were the library services and the weekly English conversation cycles.

Another reason to recommend the University of Michigan to future Marshall Plan fellows is that the city of Ann Arbor is really great (and very untypical for the US). A huge portion of the population is associated with the university, which is reflected in the open atmosphere and a lively city center. Ann Arbor is very “green”, has a useful bus system as well as city bikes and is very pedestrian friendly. There are hardly any fast food restaurants but instead you have organic markets. In the summer there are free open air concerts and a famous art fair. Downsides are that Ann Arbor is a rather expensive city and that getting to a larger super market is a hassle without a car. I can recommend experiencing the Michigan Stadium once. Furthermore, Ann Arbor is very different from other places in the US, so if you have not done so already, make sure to make weekend trips to, e.g., Chicago, to obtain some idea about the huge differences between these cities.

The way I found accommodation might also be interesting to future fellows: I had a sublease for a room in a shared house. During the summer, this should be easy to get as many students leave the town. I asked for a room in an online forum (couchsurfing) and had several opportunities to choose from.

I definitely recommend obtaining additional experience through a stay abroad and would like to thank the Marshall Plan Foundation for enabling me to do this.

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